



NEW ZEALAND
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NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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Wallace, William J. and Edith Taylor Wallace. Pinao Bay Site (H.24).
A Small Prehistoric Fishing Settlement near South Point (Ka Lae),
Hawaii. Pacific Anthropological Records No. 2. Bernice P. Bishop
Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii. 1969. 34 pp. Price: \$US.2.00.

P. S. Bellwood

The greater part of this report deals with the excavation of a six square metre trench into a midden (H.24) near the southern tip of the island of Hawaii. Two appendices deal with the excavation of a stone pavement (H.25), and another midden (H.26), both in the general vicinity of H.24. All the sites are small, and the findings limited; hence this is really a data report from start to finish, and no attempts are made to venture forth into the realms of hypothesis. On the presentation of artefact description, mainly fish-hooks, and filing, drilling and cutting tools associated with the making of fish-hooks, the report is competent. Apart from artefacts, post-holes and parts of stone pavements were also excavated, and these are formally described. Site plans are poor, being mainly replaced by photographs - unsatisfactory substitutes in many cases. Comparison of artefacts recovered with those from other Hawaiian sites consists of vague references - there is no sign of any application of rigorous analytical techniques. The section on food remains - fish, shellfish and mammals - and consists simply of lists, in many cases without even numbers or percentages of the species under discussion. Furthermore, the H.24 site was excavated in unit levels of 10 cms, although archaeological levels were observable and are described in the report. The reviewer can see no justification for such a technique, unless archaeological levels really cannot be observed. Also, some artefacts are referred to by archaeological levels, others by depths from the surface.

The authors conclude that the sites are mainly connected with fishing activities and, reasoning from the H.24 fish-hooks, that they are of late date. The descriptive detail of the report is to be applauded, and it will certainly be a useful reference to students of Hawaiian archaeology. Despite drawbacks listed above, it no doubt fulfils the objectives of the editors of Pacific Anthropological Records, namely "to make data-rich reports of current research available to the professional community."